

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/852,174

Examiner

Tongoc Tran

Applicant(s)

CARRO ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/20/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15 and 17-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                         | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|                                                                                                                     | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                               |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 12/20/2004. Claims 1, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claim 16 is canceled. Claims 1-15 and 17-19 are pending.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 1-15 and 17-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a system and method for authenticating plurality of soft-copy documents, forming a group. Dynamically (randomly) selecting a document out of a group of document and introduces randomization in the insertion of a Message Authentication Code (MAC) (Specification, page 6, lines 12-15 and remark, page 14, lines 11-20). The soft-copy documents are concatenated using a canonical form of the selected soft-copy document ("canonical, in this particular case, is a form of text that can be obtained identically by sender and receiver irrespective of the fact that text has been marked (through the insertion of extra blanks) so as to permit authentication of the set of transmitted files", Specification, pages 9, lines 7-page 10, line 4). Furthermore, MAC is computed from the concatenated plurality of soft-copy documents (through the use of one-way hash, Summary of Specification) and a predetermined key. The closest prior art, Jakubowski et al. teach a method and apparatus for producing a MAC and inserting in a predetermined portion of a plaintext message rather than dynamically selecting one document out of a the group to become

a carrier for an authentication code as recites in claim 1 (Applicant's remark, page 13-14). Furthermore, Jakubowski teaches encrypting the MAC on the data blocks but does not explicitly disclose the concatenating of plurality of soft-copy documents including the step of using a canonical form of the selected soft-copy document; computing the MAC from the concatenated plurality of soft-copy documents and a predetermined key as claimed by Applicant. The art of record, fails to anticipate or render the above mentioned limitation and remark obvious.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tongoc Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3843. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on (571) 272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner: Tongoc Tran  
Art Unit: 2134

TT



April 18, 2005



GREGORY MORSE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100